

We claim:

1. A method of testing surgical devices comprising:

providing a surgical device, said surgical device
comprising means for thermally affecting body tissue of a
5 human;

providing an earth worm as a model of human body tissue;

applying the surgical device to the earth worm and applying
power to the device to thermally affect the earth worm;

determining the suitability of the device for use on human
10 body tissue based on the observed effect on the earth
worm.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

providing the surgical device with first and second
grasping arms adapted for closure about a section of
15 human body tissue, said first and second grasping arms
each having a grasping face, said grasping face on each
grasping arm aligned to meet the grasping face of the
other grasping arm upon closure of the grasping arms;
wherein the means for thermally affecting body tissue
20 comprises a means for applying energy to the human body
tissue disposed between the grasping faces;

grasping the earth worm between the first and second
grasping faces;

applying energy to the earth worm through the means for
25 applying energy to thermally affect the earth worm.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of providing a means for applying energy comprises providing a resistive heating element disposed proximate the grasping face of the first grasping arm so that it lies between the grasping face of the first grasping arm and the grasping face of the second grasping arm upon closure of the grasping arms, said resistive heating element being operably connected to a source of electrical power.
4. The method of claim 3, where in the step of providing means for applying energy further comprises providing a thermally conductive plate between the resistive heating element and one of the grasping arms.
5. The method of claim 1, 2, 3 or 4 further comprising the step of grasping the earth worm between the clitellum and mouth of the earth worm.
6. The method of claim 1, 2, 3 or 4 further comprising the step of modifying a component of the device based on the observed effect of the device on the earth worm.